(5) MARINE.

30. Improvement of the port of Colachel.

Mr. N. Kunjan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Colachel) observed that, with the construction of the Cochin harbour, the importance of Alleppey as a port would disappear, that the proposal for a harbour at Quilon was impracticable on account of the sand-bank formed at the harbour close to the river-mouth and that the idea of a port in Trivandrum could not be carried out on account of the want of facilities for loading and unloading. The only port which could be thought of was Colachel where there were certain natural advantages. The long-promised bridge, if constructed in the Colachel roads, would give a nice port at Colachel which had large trade relations with Colombo. He requested that the matter might receive early consideration.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

III PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION, CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE.

31. Reform of the Legislative Council.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara taluk) thanked the Dewan for the announcement made in the opening Address in regard to the expansion of the Legislative Council. The Member then proceeded to indicate the direction which the proposed reform ought to take. The object of the enlarged Council should not be merely the making of Laws and Regulations. The three great departments of Government, *viz.*, Legislation, Administration, and Finance, should be brought within its province. The following were the lines suggested :—

1. As the Council constituted at present did not represent all interests, the number of Members should be increased to 25. The Heads of Departments should be made Members and such non-official interests as commerce, industries, Municipalities, Jenmies, Kudiyans, &c., should be represented.

2. As far as possible, direct election to the Council should be arranged for and wider franchise allowed.

3. The non-officials should be elected by electorates to be constituted after an electoral survey of the country. There should be a majority of non-officials with sufficient safeguards against any possible embarassment of the executive.

4. The members should have the right of interpellation and of moving resolutions.

5. There should be a small body of 2 or 3 gentlemen to assist the Dewan in the government of the country, such gentlemen being elected from among the non-officials.

6. Administrative questions should be discussed in the Council or in a smaller Committee to be formed for the purpose.

7. The Council should have a voice in framing the annual Budget.

Dewan's reply.—As announced in my opening Address, the Government have under consideration a scheme for the introduction of a measure which will give substantial powers to the people. A Bill has already been drafted and it will take some time before it could be published. The representations of the Member will receive careful consideration.

32. Need for a legislative enactment sanctioning partition in Nair Tarwads.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Parur taluk) in reiterating the evils arising from the present system of inheritance among Nairs submitted that the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

thavazhi system of partition would not meet the present day requirements. He strongly pleaded for individual partition.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to partition, at the time the Nair Bill was passing through the Legislative Council, the non-official Members unanimously objected to the provisions relating to partition and so the chapter on partition had to be omitted. Afterwards, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai brought forward an amending Bill to introduce *thavazhi* partition. Government were not satisfied that the people really wanted it. For, when that Bill was before the Council, several people were informally consulted and the majority were against *thavazhi* partition. The difficulty is to know the real opinion among the majority. If, therefore, the majority of Nairs are of the deliberate opinion that partition is necessary and Government also are convinced of the need, there can be no difficulty in the way of taking legislative action.

33. Desirability of introducing a Bill into the Legislative Council to improve the present system of inheritance among Nanjanad Vellalas.

Mr. K. M. Thandavamurthia Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) represented that, owing to the absence of a law defining the customs relating to marriage, succession, inheritance, and powers of management by the Karanavan, among the Nanjanad Vellalas, the community was labouring under serious disadvantages and difficulties. The Member explained the circumstances under which a Bill, once introduced into Council, was withdrawn with the object of introducing a more comprehensive one. Two years had elapsed since then and the revised Bill had not yet been introduced. The majority of suits in Nanjanad related to the rights of inheritance and *Ukanthudama*. The decisions of courts were often conflicting on those points and they were based on the analogy of the customs obtaining among other communities. The need for legislation on the subject was, therefore, imperative. The Member prayed that a new Bill, based on the suggestions contained in the memorials already submitted to Government by the members of the Vellala community, be introduced in the Legislative Council without further loss of time.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

34. Need for a legislative enactment to regulate inheritance and succession among Pulayas.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) submitted that, on account of the confusion existing among the Pulaya community as to the system of inheritance, considerable difficulties and disputes arose and, as a result, there was a good deal of litigation. The small property they enjoyed was thus ruined. The High Court had already declared Makkathayam as their form of inheritance. The Member requested that a law be passed on the basis of the High Court decision.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

35. Desirability of passing a Regulation reducing the rate of interest allowed on debts from 12 per cent to 7½ per cent.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram taluk) said that the rate of interest now allowed by civil courts on debts was 12 per cent. The poor agriculturists were unable to pay interest at that high rate. In the Agricultural Loans Regulation, the Government had reduced the rate of interest on loans granted to ryots to 4 per cent. It was not possible for Government to give loans to all people. He, therefore, requested that the rate of interest be reduced to 7½ per cent. and the same provided by a Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

36. Need for expunging portions of the Report of the Jenmi-Kudiyan Committee.

Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) said that he had tried to impress upon Government the need for expunging certain objectionable portions in the Report of the Jenmi-Kudiyan Committee at the last

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly